

appearing to hold the bird under water to drown it. He remained in this position for three or four minutes until he was moved by a shot into the water near him. The teal at once rose to the surface and a few moments afterwards the buzzard returned, stooped, and resumed his position on the water. This time the buzzard stayed there longer and as we could not wait he was once again moved by a shot and this time went right away. A minute or two later the teal floated to the surface and apparently expired almost immediately.

At the place where this incident occurred the water was certainly more than 6 ft. deep and there was a very thin growth of weeds trailing on the surface of the water, but not enough I am sure to support the buzzard.

I witnessed this scene through binoculars.

RAJKUMAR COLLEGE,
RAJKOT,
February 1, 1956.

M. A. WYNTER-BLYTH

[Reference is invited to the Gleaning 'Swan Song' and the editorial note to it (Vol. 52, p. 655) dealing with this subject.—EDS.]

16. A JUMPING SNAKE

Dr. Maurice Burton in the *Illustrated London News* of 12th November, 1955 discusses an incident of a five-foot long snake progressing down a mountain side in Liguria in a series of jumps. This reminds me of a jumping snake which I saw in Balasore (Orissa) in 1926. I was motoring along the main road when I saw about 25 to 30 yards in front of me a light-brown coloured, five-foot long snake crossing the road. I accelerated with the intention of running over it. The snake saw me approaching and began to move faster but could not move fast enough to escape. When I was about 2 yards from it and made certain that I must crush it, it rose into the air and got away from me. The angle at which it rose was about 45° or a little more. It reached a height of 3 to 4 ft., but its tail was never very far from the ground. I stopped the car and tried to find the snake, but it disappeared among the bushes and so I was unable to identify it.

It would be interesting to know whether any of your readers have had experiences of jumping snakes.

16, UNION PARK,
KHAR, BOMBAY, 21,
January 24, 1956.

D. E. REUBEN

17. A NOTE ON FISHES OF THE FAMILIÆ SYNGNATHIDÆ AND PEGASIDÆ AND THE ORDER HETEROSOMATA IN THE COLOMBO MUSEUM

In the course of my studies of the fishes in the collections of the Colombo Museum I discovered the presence of three species among the

Syngnathidae and four species among the Heterosomata not hitherto recorded off Ceylon. These are:

Name	No. of specimens in the collection	Locality
<i>Syngnathus cyanospilus</i> Bleeker ...	4	Pearl banks and off Jaffna.
<i>Hippocampus hystrix</i> Kaup ...	1	Pearl banks.
<i>Hippocampus trimaculatus</i> Leach ...	4	Pearl banks.
<i>Pseudorhombus duplici-cellatus</i> Regan ...	2	Pearl banks.
<i>Pseudorhombus elevatus</i> Ogilby ...	13	Pearl banks and off Panadura.
<i>Pardachirus marmoratus</i> (Lacépède) ...	2	Pearl banks.
<i>Brachirus albomaculatus</i> (Kaup) ...	1	Off Negombo.

Amongst these first records the record of *Pseudorhombus duplici-cellatus* and *Hippocampus trimaculatus* off Ceylon indicates a westward extension of the range of distribution of these species, whilst the record of *Pardachirus marmoratus* off Ceylon indicates an eastward extension of its range of distribution.

The Colombo Museum also possesses a single specimen of *Pegasus volitans* Linné collected from China Bay, Trincomalee. This is the second record of this species for the Indian Ocean, the first being that of Johnstone (1904, Pearl Oyster Reports, pt. 2, p. 214) from off Aripu.

NATIONAL MUSEUMS,
CEYLON,
September 7, 1955.

P. H. D. H. De SILVA,
Assistant in Zoology.

18. FOOD OF THE WHALE SHARK, *RHINEODON TYPUS* (SMITH): EVIDENCE OF A JĀTAKA SCULPTURE, 2ND CENTURY B.C.

(With a plate)

It is not my intention to enter into a controversy raised in McCann's recent article¹, in which he has tried to prove that the Whale Shark is a vegetarian fish, browsing on long filamentous marine algae, as against Gudger's statement² to the following effects:

'However, *Rhineodon* must need and must get bulkier food. This it undoubtedly finds in sardines and like small surface-feeding fishes,

¹ McCann, C. The Whale Shark, *Rhineodon typus* (Smith). *JBNHS*, 52: pp. 326-333 (1954).

² Gudger, E. W. What ultimately terminates the life span of the Whale Shark, *Rhineodon typus*? *ibid.*, 51: pp. 879-884 (1953).